

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LOME 01690 01 OF 02 251223Z
ACTION AF-10

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FM AMEMBASSY LOME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2380

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 LOME 1690

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E.O. 11652: XGDS-3
TAGS: SHUM, TO
SUBJECT: TOGO: POST COMMENTS ON AND RECOMMENDED LANGUAGE FOR
DRAFT HUMAN RIGHTS ACTION PLAN

REF: STATE 139160

1. IN GENERAL REFERENCE IS GOOD EFFORT TO PUT HUMAN RIGHTS
SITUATION INTO CANDID PERSPECTIVE. FOLLOWING CHANGES
RECOMMENDED, HOWEVER,

2. CHANGES KEYED TO PARA 4A REFTEL:
DRAFT PLAN
A. CONDITION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN TOGO.

1. RESPECT FOR THE INTEGRITY OF THE PERSON, INCLUDING FREEDOM
FROM:
A) PARAGRAPH 4A1A SHOULD READ:
TORTURE: THERE HAVE BEEN NO RECENT CASES. HAS OCCURRED
OCCASIONALLY IN PAST BUT NOT AS A MATTER OF POLICY. PRESIDENT
STATED AT A CLOSED PARTY MEETING LAST YEAR THAT TORTURE HAD
OCCURRED IN SOME CASES ON THE INITIATIVE OF SUBORDINATES, BUT HE
HAD NOT BEEN INFORMED AT THE TIME AND DISAPPROVED OF ITS
USE.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 LOME 01690 01 OF 02 251223Z

B) PARAGRAPH 4A1B SHOULD READ:
CRUEL, INHUMAN OR DEGRADING PUNISHMENT:
PRISON CONDITIONS REFLECT POVERTY OF THE COUNTRY, BUT THERE
NO PARTICULAR EVIDENCE OF CRUEL, INHUMAN OR DEGRADING
PUNISHMENT.

C) PARAGRAPH 4A1C SHOULD READ:

ARBITRARY ARREST OR IMPRISONMENT: ONLY OCCURS WHEN POLITICAL OFFENSES ARE SUSPECTED. IN APRIL IN A DELIBERATE EFFORT TO FREE ALL PRISONERS HELD FOR POLITICAL OFFENSES, 25 PEOPLE WERE RELEASED. SUBSEQUENTLY, IN THE COURSE OF AN INVESTIGATION OF ANTI-GOVERNMENT AND MARXIST TRACTS WHICH HAD BEEN CIRCULATED IN TOGO, NUMEROUS PEOPLE (PERHAPS AS MANY AS 200) WERE ARRESTED OR CALLED IN FOR QUESTIONING. AS A RESULT OF THIS INVESTIGATION, EMBASSY BELIEVES FOUR ARE STILL BEING HELD AND THAT THE GOVERNMENT PROBABLY INTENDS TO PROSECUTE THEM.

D) PARAGRAPH 4A1D: NO CHANGE RECOMMENDED.

E) PARAGRAPH 4A1E SHOULD READ: INVASION OF THE HOME:
NOT USUAL EXCEPT FOR RARE POLITICAL CASES.

2. RESPECT FOR POLITICAL AND CIVIL LIBERTIES:

A) PARAGRAPH 4A2A: NO CHANGE RECOMMENDED.

B) PARAGRAPH 4A2B: NO CHANGE RECOMMENDED.

C) PARAGRAPH 4A2C SHOULD READ:

DEMOCRATIC PROCESSES ASSURING THE FREEDOM TO PARTICIPATE IN THE POLITICAL PROCESS: THERE HAVE BEEN NO ELECTIONS SINCE
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SECRET

PAGE 03 LOME 01690 01 OF 02 251223Z

THE PLEBISCITE IN 1972. WITHIN THE NATIONAL PARTY ACTIVE PARTICIPANTS ARE IN A POSITION TO EXPRESS THEIR VIEWS ON SUCH ISSUES AS THE FUNCTIONING OF THE GOVERNMENT AND THE PERFORMANCE OF INDIVIDUALS UP TO AND INCLUDING MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNMENT. THEY ARE NOT FREE TO CRITICIZE THE ACTIONS OF THE PRESIDENT NOR TO QUESTION THE IDEOLOGICAL ORIENTATION OF THE GOVERNMENT. TOGOLESE WHO DO NOT TAKE AN ACTIVE ROLE WITHIN THE PARTY ARE NOT ENCOURAGED TO PLAY A POLITICAL ROLE.

3. RECENT TRENDS IN GOVERNMENTAL POLICIES RELATING TO THE FULFILLMENT OF BASIC NEEDS FOR FOOD, SHELTER, HEALTH CARE AND EDUCATION.

A) PARAGRAPH 4A3A SHOULD READ:

POLICIES DESIGNED TO RESPOND TO THE NEEDS OF THE POOR: TOGO'S BUDGET REFLECTS HIGH PRIORITY ACCORDED TO EDUCATION, HEALTH AND AGRICULTURE. FOR EXAMPLE, WHILE THE OVERALL BUDGET INCREASED TEN PERCENT IN 1977, THE BUDGETS FOR THE MINISTRIES OF EDUCATION AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT INCREASED 33 PERCENT. POLICIES WHICH TEND TO IGNORE THE NEEDS OF THE POOR: THE GOT HAS UNDERTAKEN A HEAVY INVESTMENT PROGRAM IN TOURISM AND 16 PERCENT OF THE 1976-80 DEVELOPMENT PLAN IS ALLOCATED TO THIS

SECTOR, PRIMARILY FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF HOTELS. THE GOVERNMENT IS ALSO IN THE PROCESS OF UPGRADING ITS DEFENSE STRUCTURE IN WHAT IT PERCEIVES AS A RESPONSE TO INCREASED SOVIET INFLUENCE IN THE REGION; THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE RECEIVED A 30 PERCENT INCREASE IN THE 1977 BUDGET.

B) PARA GRAPH 4A3B SHOULD READ: CORRUPTION OF SUCH A NATURE THAT SIGNIFICANT RESOURCES ARE DIVERTED TOWARD THE NATION'S ELITES AND AWAY FROM THE MAJORITY OF THE POPULATION; THE EXTENT OF CORRUPTION IS DIFFICULT TO GAUGE. GOT'S STRONG OPPOSITION TO CORRUPTION IS APPARENT IN NUMEROUS CASES OF THE ARREST AND PROSECUTION OF MIDDLE AND LOW LEVEL OFFICIALS. DIVERSION OF RESOURCES FOR PRIVATE USE AMONG HIGH LEVEL OFFICIALS IS RUMORED TO OCCUR,
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 04 LOME 01690 01 OF 02 251223Z

BUT CONFIRMATION IS LACKING. BRIBES ARE NOT NECESSARY TO OBTAIN MOST GOVERNMENT SERVICES.

4. LEVEL OF GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSIBILITY FOR FOREGOING HUMAN RIGHT'S RECORD:

A) PARAGRAPH 4A4A: DELETE LAST SENTENCE.

B) PARAGRAPH 4A4B: NO CHANGE RECOMMENDED.

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PAGE 01 LOME 01690 02 OF 02 251500Z
ACTION AF-10

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S E C R E T SECTION 2 OF 2 LOME 1690

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5. WILLINGNESS AND PAST RECORD OF THE GOVERNMENT REGARDING
INDEPENDENT OUTSIDE INVESTIGATION OF ALLEGED HUMAN RIGHTS
VIOLATIONS.

A) PARAGRAPH 5A SHOULD READ:

THE ISSUE OF VISITS BY INDEPENDENT, OUTSIDE INVESTIGATION OF
ALLEGED HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS HAS NEVER COME UP. AT PRESENT,
GOT IS SAID TO BE PREPARED TO ALLOW SUCH A VISIT.

B) ANALYSIS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.

1. PARAGRAPH 5B1: NO CHANGE RECOMMENDED.

(1) RESPECT FOR INTEGRITY OF THE PERSON.

PARAGRAPH 5B1(1) SHOULD READ:

OBJECTIVE: REINFORCE GOVERNMENT'S APPARENT DESIRE TO KEEP
DOWN NUMBER OF POLITICAL PRISONERS.

(2) PARAGRAPH 5B1(2) SHOULD READ:

IMPORTANCE: TIMELY AND CRITICAL AS GOVERNMENT HAS TAKEN
INITIATIVE ALREADY TO IMPROVE ITS HUMAN RIGHTS IMAGE, AT
LEAST IN PART, IN ORDER TO IMPROVE BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH
THE U.S. GOVERNMENT.

FEASIBILITY: NO CHANGE RECOMMENDED.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 LOME 01690 02 OF 02 251500Z

OPTIONS:

A) NO CHANGE RECOMMENDED.

B) ADD FIRST SENTENCE QUOTE...AND FIND A LONG RANGE TRAINING
VEHICLE TO INCREASE EXPOSURE OF TOGOLESE OFFICERS TO US
PROFESSIONAL AND CULTURAL VALUES, INCLUDING HUMAN RIGHTS UNQUOTE.
ADD TO LAST SENTENCE QUOTE MEANS OF OBTAINING GREATER HUMAN
RIGHTS LEVERAGE UNQUOTE.

C) NO CHANGE RECOMMENDED.

D) DELETE SECOND SENTENCE. ADD NEW SENTENCE QUOTE NEW CREDITS
SHOULD BE EXTENDED AS PROJECTS BECOME AVAILABLE UNQUOTE.

E) NO CHANGE RECOMMENDED.

(2) RESPECT FOR POLITICAL AND CIVIL LIBERTIES.

PARAGRAPH 5B1(2):

OBJECTIVE: NO CHANGE RECOMMENDED.

IMPORTANCE: NO CHANGE RECOMMENDED.

FEASIBILITY: PARAGRAPH SHOULD READ:

PROGRESS MIGHT BE MADE IN THIS DIRECTION BUT WILL NOT BE EASY

AS GOVERNMENT SEES POLITICAL AND CIVIL LIBERTIES AS AN OBSTACLE TO ITS PROGRAM OF STRENGTHENING NATIONAL UNITY AND BELIEVES IT HAS A MANDATE TO PREVENT THE INSTABILITY WHICH CHARACTERIZED TOGO DURING PREVIOUS CIVILIAN REGIMES. THE GOVERNMENT IS INCREASINGLY CONCERNED ABOUT SOVIET ACTIVITIES IN AFRICA AND DOES NOT INTEND FOR "MARXISM" TO BE ADVOCATED IN TOGO.

(3) POLICIES RELATING TO FULFILLMENT OF BASIC NEEDS FOR FOOD, SHELTER, HEALTH CARE AND EDUCATION.

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PAGE 03 LOME 01690 02 OF 02 251500Z

PARAGRAPH 5B(3) SHOULD READ:

OBJECTIVE: COMMENT: SECOND SENTENCE IS ONLY VIABLE IF U.S. SHOULD PUT ENOUGH CHIPS INTO THE GAME TO BECOME A PLAYER. OTHERWISE, IT IS QUIXOTIC AND SHOULD BE DELETED.

IMPORTANCE: NO CHANGE RECOMMENDED.

FEASIBILITY: NO CHANGE RECOMMENDED.

OPTIONS: NO CHANGE RECOMMENDED.

RECOMMENDATIONS: NO CHANE RECOMMENDED.

2. PRINCIPAL REACTION IN HOST COUNTRY TO THE NEW U.S. HUMAN RIGHTS POLICIES AND EMBASSY ACTIONS AND PROPOSED ACTIONS IN SUPPORT OF THOSE POLICIES: DELETE THIRD SENTENCE.

3. IMPLICATIONS OF REACTIONS IN TERMS OF IMPLICATIONS FOR POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE CHANGES IN HUMAN RIGHTS CONDITIONS: NO CHANGE RECOMMENDED.

4. A. IMPACT OF ACTIONS ON U.S. INTERESTS: NO CHANGE RECOMMENDED .

B. LIKELIHOOD OF HOST GOVERNMENT SUPPORTING U.S. EFFORTS TO PROMOTE HUMAN RIGHTS THROUGH GOVERNMENTAL AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION: NO CHANGE RECOMMENDED.
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Message Attributes

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